

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/398,133 filed July 25, 2002 entitled Curved Sawing Gang and is a Continuation-In-Part of United States Patent Application No. 10/342,400 filed January 15, 2003 which is a Continuation of United States Patent Application No. 09/505,255 filed February 15, 2000, now United States Patent No. 6,520,228 which is a Continuation of United States Patent Application No. 09/211,047 filed December 15, 1998, now United States Patent No. 6,039,098 which is a Division of United States Patent Application No. 08/822,947 filed March 21, 1997, now United States Patent No. 5,884,682 which claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/013,803 filed March 21, 1996, United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/015,825 filed April 17, 1996 and United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/025,086 filed August 30, 1996 entitled Position-Based Integrated Motion Controlled Curve Sawing. --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 8, line 12 and line 24

-- With reference to the drawing figures, wherein similar characters of reference denote corresponding parts in each view, as seen in Figure 1, in the prior art a curved cant 10 was fed between anvils 12 located adjacent the sides 14 of the cant, for accurate infeed to arbor-mounted saws 16 mounted on splined arbor 16a. Anvils 12 may be mounted intermediate of, or between upstream chipping heads 18 and downstream saws 16. In a curve sawing application, saws 16 in gang saw 17 are selectively positioned relative to the cant 10 by slewing (lateral translation) and skewing (pivoting relative to the infeed direction) of the arbor or arbor supporting frame 30 or carriage according to instructions from an optimizer for optimized recovery of boards from cant 10. Such curve sawing is described in our previous patent applications, particulars of which are provided above, from which this application claims priority, all of which prior patent applications being incorporated herein by reference.

In the prior art anvils 12 are mounted a fixed distance apart. Such fixedly positioned anvils may be spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the width of cant 10 downstream of the chipping heads to provide minimal frictional engagement between the anvils and the faces 14a formed from sides 14. That is, faces 14a are downstream of the chipping heads, the chipping heads operating on sides 14, that is the upstream sides as they are fed into the chipping heads. As knives 18a of chipping head 18 impact sides 14 of cant 10, asymmetric chipping loading can occur. For example, dissimilar chipping depth or wood density occurring on one side of cant 10 results in knives 18a impacting with greater lateral force, resulting in lateral movement of cant 10 toward the opposite anvil. This movement results in the cant being moved slightly out of the optimized path. When cants are fed butt first toward saws 16, the chipping head 18 may not be moved laterally relative to the cant, for example, may not be positioned inwardly without conflict with anvils 12. The lack of actively controlled lateral movement of the chipping heads to relieve chipping forces or to accommodate bulges, flares and butts, for example so that a side board cannot be recovered, results in inefficient wood recovery from the cant.--